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PATENT DEC 29 1999

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

JOHN BROWSE et al.

APPLN. NO.: 09/219,935

FILED: DECEMBER 23, 1998

FOR: FATTY ACID DESATURASE
GENES FROM PLANTS



CASE NO.: BB-1036-B

GROUP ART UNIT: 1649

EXAMINER: E. MCELWAIN

Date: DECEMBER 21, 1999

#8/C
chr
3-25-00

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Response

This is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 1, 1999 regarding the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and submit the following in support thereof.

In the Claims

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Kindly amend the following claims:

1. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fatty acid desaturase or a fatty acid desaturase-related enzyme with an amino acid identity of 50% or greater to the polypeptide encoded by [SEQ ID NOS:1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 or 16] SEQ ID NOS:2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 or 17 or (b) a nucleic acid sequence or part thereof which is useful in antisense inhibition or sense suppression of endogenous desaturase activity in a transformed plant wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide with an amino acid identity of 50% or greater to the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NOS:2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 or 17 or part thereof.

20. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is useful in antisense inhibition or sense suppression of endogenous desaturase activity in a transformed plant wherein said [isolated] nucleic acid [fragment] sequence hybridizes to one of the nucleotide sequences set forth in [SEQ

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12/21/99
Date

Diane M. Dick
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